REGISTERED No. M 4345

MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL IV FRIDAY, JULY 30, 1943 No. 46

Mr. CHURCHILL

FASCIST KEYSTONE CRUMBLES

The end of Mussolini's long and severe reign over the Italian people undoubtedly marks the close of an epoch in the life of Italy. The keystone of the Fascist arch has crumbled, and without attempting to prophesy, it does not seem unlikely that the entire Fascist edifice will fall to the ground in ruins, if it has not already so fallen

The totalitarian system of a single party, armed with secret police, engrossing to itself practically all officers, even the humblest in Government, and with Magistrates and Courts under control of the executive, with its whole network of domestic spies and neighbourly informants—such a system, when applied over a long period of time, leaves the broad masses without any influence on their country's destinies and without any independent figures apart from the official classes

Now the external shock of war has broken the spell which, in Italy, held all those masses for so long—in fact for more than twenty years, and held them for all this period in physical, and even more, in moral subjection. We may, therefore, reasonably expect that very great changes will take place in Italy

Mr. CHURCHILL in the House of Commons, on Tuesday, July 27

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Running Commentary	3
Prisoners' Home-coming	4
Italy: The End of An Epoch	5
This Week—In Retrospect	6
The Brand of the Duce	8
R.A.F. Pilot's Escape on Monsoon-swept Burma Front	9
A Message to Malta, G.C.	10
I was in Japan	11
Japan's Present Military Position in the Pacific	13
The Setting Sun: Jap Naval Losses	14
Teachers and the War Effort	15
Anti-inflation in a Nutshell	16
This Fortress of Hitler's	17
Subedar Volunteers	17
From Air Weakness to Air Strength	18
They Fought against Tippu	18
War Diary	19

H.E. Sir Arthur Hope Club

For Indian Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen

Rundall's Road, Vepery, Madras

Accommodation provided for Indian troops passing through Madras or staying for a few days in the City on leave - -

Recreation: Ping Pong, Chess, Draughts, Radio, etc.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

CHEAP CLOTH is available in the Madras Handloom Weavers' Provincial Co-operative Sales Emporiums

AT CONTROLLED PRICES which are clearly stamped on each article

DO NOT BUY from unauthorized dealers at ***higher prices***

It is an offence under the Defence of India Rules to sell Handloom cheap cloth at higher than marked prices

Issued by the Madras Handloom Weavers' Provincial Co-operative Society, Limited, 1/159, MOUNT ROAD, MADRAS.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

A DELIGHTFUL PROGRAMME

OF
BY
FOR **THE TROOPS**

ARE YOU INTERESTED?

—Then tune in to Madras or Trichinopoly

every Wednesday at 10 p.m.

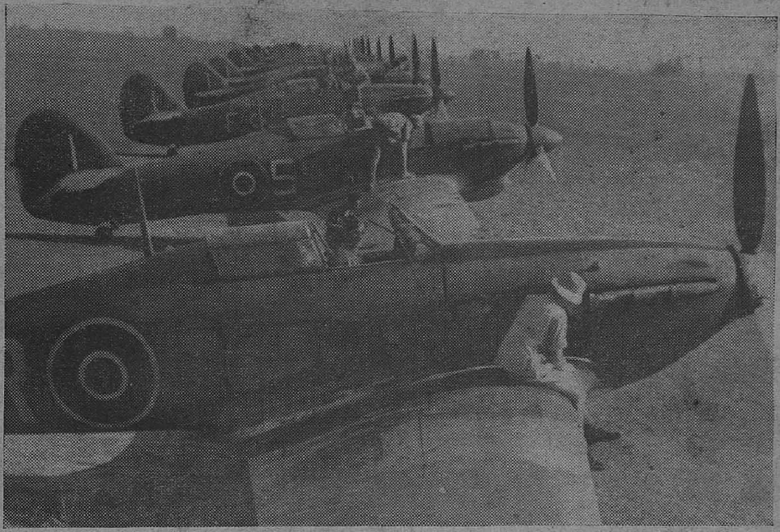
YOU'D LIKE IT, and LOVE IT!

Registered No. M-4345.

Madras War Review

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. IV FRIDAY, JULY 30, 1943 No: 46



HURRICANES OVER EASTERN INDIA.—Our fighter aircraft in Eastern India are doing great work against intruding enemy planes, enemy troops, launches and transport. Wherever the enemy is found he is attacked, and day by day the fighter pilots' scores mount steadily. They have a man's size job and are tackling it cheerfully and courageously. Photo shows fighters ready to take off.

RUNNING COMMENTARY

Nazis Want Women Workers—So Old Doctrine Given Up. The Nazi attitude towards women has undergone a radical change as an indirect result of recent Allied military successes. Formerly the Nazi theory was that woman was inferior to man and should minister to her lord and master and breed children. That, said the Nazis, should be the limit of her activities. In a speech on September 8, 1934, Hitler said:

"We do not consider it right that women should intrude into the world of man . . . The contribution a man makes to his nation's struggle a woman makes in maintaining the individual calls of the nation . . . Every child she brings into the world is a blow struck in the nation's struggle for existence."

Nazi commentators imbued with this doctrine of woman's inferiority poured their scorn on Britain when she mobilized her woman-power early in the war. On March 11, 1941, a Berlin home broadcast said:

"England is going through a far worse time than Germany. Family life is breaking up. Women have forgotten that they are the centre of the home. Women have joined in the war activity, and that is wrong."

But now Nazis are telling a different story altogether. In January this year, total mobilization for women has been instituted. In February women were called up as Luftwaffe auxiliaries. On February 2nd, speaking on the German home radio, Schwarz von Berk said:

"Every woman, every girl must be ready to undertake any urgent war work. What we want to do now is to convince girls and women that we cannot manage without their help."

Last month (June 11) the need for women joining the fire service was mooted in Germany. Now breeding has to give way to the urgent present necessity of helping the war work of the Nazis who have always looked upon women having children, legitimate or otherwise, as a sacred duty! It may be recalled that Himmler once declared:

"For pure-blooded German girls there exists a duty outside marriage, and in no way connected with it. This duty consists in becoming a mother by a soldier going to the front."

Now the Nazi leaders think that the German girls would be more useful in the factories, and therefore the original doctrine has been given up. In a statement issued last month (June 22), the German Official News Agency *D.N.B.* says,

"There are certain social and demographic disadvantages attached to illegitimacy. The child must do without the educative influence of one parent, and in most cases, the mother will have no more children. Quite apart from any narrow-minded moral doctrine, there are national points of view, which make the value of the propagation of an illegitimate child rather doubtful".

* * * * *

German Women Unwilling to Work —Press Criticism. The Nazis have no doubt changed their views, but German women are not able to adapt themselves to this sudden change of policy. This is clear from what has appeared in a West German newspaper on the 12th of last month. The paper says:

"Sometimes it seems as if that positive inner attitude which alone can make work easy and tolerable

for newly-mobilized women were lacking. Some women only submit to compulsion and do not seek to conceal their feelings towards their new work. It has been reported that they have not understood how to do justice to the demands of total war in their efforts during the first few months."

Another newspaper *National Zeitung* said in its issue of June 10 :—

"As men bear weapons it must be women who replace them at their work. This should really be obvious. But it is nevertheless necessary to state it, as there are still women who believe that such necessities exist only for others . . . There are also others, namely, those who, despite repeated appeals, simply have not registered, and again those who thought it best simply to move away. Women who sin against the command of the hour regarding the war must expect their names to be publicly announced."

During the previous month (May), there have also been other comments on the attitude of women in the German press. In its issue of May 25, *Voelkischer Beobachter* accuses German women of "arguing too much about house work or repeatedly talking about their mothers' and aunts' rheumatism." Another paper *Berliner Boersen Zeitung* in its issue of May 29, referred to the excuse of many German women that they were physically unfit for war work and said,

"The necessary medical examinations are naturally being carried out, but they take a long time, and it is therefore generally better to advise women to try to work. People who are not working generally tend to exaggerate their ill-health. The whole campaign for the conscription of labour cannot be accomplished without sacrifices."

* * * *

Situation in England and in Germany—Contrast in Attitude of Women. It is of some interest here to compare and contrast the attitude of English women and German women to the war effort of their respective countries. The women of England have shown greater sense of national responsibility and have taken their place in the war effort of their country willingly and efficiently. They have considered it not only their duty, but also their right to help the national war effort. But German women who had hitherto remained passive and placid and content with the inferior position assigned to them by the Nazis are not showing adequate response to the demand for mobilization of women workers, for they must be feeling that they are regarded not as full and active partners in the war effort, but as stop-gaps which have to be used because everything else has failed.

According to the *Neue Zuercher Zeitung*, a German language newspaper published in Zurich, 83 per cent of the number of mobilized civilians were women. Fifty per cent of them were declared fit for work. But half of them have never been employed before. Only a quarter have done some kind of physical work previously. Why is it that even such women have been called up and forced to work in German factories? It is because the outlook of the German industrial output is not very bright. HITLER's debacle at Stalingrad, the increased tempo of Allied bombing of the Ruhr valley and the Anglo-American invasion of Sicily have all contributed to the slowing-down of the German war machine. Mobilization of women workers in conditions and circumstances indicated above give us some idea of the frantic nature of the attempts of the Nazis to keep up the pace of production—an attempt which is not going to succeed to the extent they hope.

* * * *

Allied Progress in Sicily—Complete Co-ordination in a Complicated Campaign. The Algiers radio has announced that General MONTGOMERY has declared himself very satisfied with the progress of the military operations in Sicily. The Allies have repeatedly advanced in Sicily, but it is stated that the approach of mountainous terrain in the central and south-western parts of the island may slow the speed of operations. The change of political situation in Italy, as a result of the exit of MUSSOLINI, however, gives colour to the view that the end of the Sicilian campaign may not be as far off as was visualized at an earlier stage.

A notable feature of the Sicilian campaign is the complete co-ordination of the Allied land, air and naval armies in an operation of the greatest complexity. There is perfect co-ordination between air forces and the ground forces. Allied naval units operating in the Sicilian waters, protected by a strong air umbrella, are shelling the island's coastal defences and other military objectives. For a number of days, Catania has experienced naval bombardment, and British naval craft have entered even the Straits of Messina. Such movements so close to enemy shores would not at all be possible without complete mastery in the air and the highest degree of co-ordination between the services.

* * * *

Axis Radio Seeks to Minimise Allied Achievements. The successes achieved as a result of such mastery and co-ordination have upset and confused enemy radios. In an attempt to minimize the importance of Allied achievements, Axis propaganda has gone off in different directions. Two weeks ago Berlin said in a radio commentary in English, "The battle of Sicily has not yet been joined". But the next day the Axis controlled "Free India" radio said in a Tamil broadcast, "The battle of Sicily has reached its last phase." In an English news-broadcast, Berlin said on July 16, "The Allied forces in Sicily have not been able to widen their bridge-heads". The Axis-controlled "Azad Hind" radio said in a Tamil broadcast on the previous day (July 15), "The Allies have not yet contacted the main body of the Axis forces. Even so they have not been able to penetrate more than 20 miles inland." In July 17, Captain SERTORIOUS, German military commentator, said in a broadcast from Berlin:

"On the coastal sector (south of Catania) German troops are engaged in bitter fighting with strong British infantry formations . . . Canadian troops advancing from Scordia are now fighting for entrance to the Catania plain."

But the fact was that the Canadians had already travelled more than 50 miles inland from the extreme south tip of Sicily, and that as a result of Allied advance in all sectors, the Axis Command could not keep the Allied armies pinned down to the narrow coastal strips of Sicily, as they wanted to.

PRISONERS' HOME-COMING

WHEN Indian soldiers, repatriated from Italian prison-camps came ashore at Alexandria recently, the first newspaper headlines they set eyes on were: "Surrender of Von Arnim to the Fourth Indian Division." There was a special thrill in that Many of them had fought with the Division's 11th Brigade, famous for its stand before Tobruk.

For most of the men lining the rails of that trim, white ship as it felt its way slowly into Alexandria harbour, the 13th of May marked the end of a long and weary trail, and for none more than a certain Punjabi Mussalman veteran, captured at Dunkirk, whose three years in enemy hands would furnish material for an enthralling book.

It was the second time that arrangements had been made to repatriate him. The first time he was sent by the Germans to Lisbon and then—back to Germany. He escaped to Unoccupied France where he passed off as an Algerian Arab. Finally, he was detected and interned in France. Soon he was in an Italian Prisoner of War camp. And here the last of his adventures began.

The men laughed and joked and chatted. Behind them, the misery of closed camps—before them, a free life at home. They have learned to speak English. It was one of the things an I.M.S. officer and his colleagues taught I.O.Rs. in the long days of their imprisonment.

ITALY: THE END OF AN EPOCH

THE fall of Mussolini reminds one of Antony's oration in Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar"—"O, what a fall was there, my countrymen!" A few days ago, the Duce was all-powerful, and his word might have stood against the world, so to say, but now lies he there powerless, and none so poor to do him reverence! Well might a modern Antony exclaim: "Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears; I come to pray for Mussolini, not to praise him . . . O mighty Mussolini! dost thou lie so low? Are all thy conquests, glories, triumphs, spoils and reverses shrunk to this little measure?—Fare thee well! . . . Shall it not grieve thee dearer than thy death to see thy Antony making his peace, shaking the bloody fingers of thy foes? Had I as many eyes as thou hast wounds, it would become me better than to close in terms of friendship with thine enemies." And well might a present-day gathering of enlightened Romans, who have experienced the horrors of war and known what it is to have their capital city bombed—Rome was bombed just a day after Mussolini met Hitler recently!—turn away without a tear for the man who had brought Italy to the verge of annihilation. Not merely that, they would also gladly welcome any attempts to bring peace to war-worn Italy.

THERE are already rumours that Marshal Badoglio, who displaced Mussolini, is seeking peace. The Berne correspondent of *The New York Times* refers to what are called "authoritative" reports from the Italo-Swiss frontier that Premier Badoglio has sent on Tuesday a delegation of civilian representatives with an Army General to discuss the terms of surrender with the Allies after contacts with British diplomats at Vatican City. A Swiss Telegraph Agency reports that the new Premier is discussing armistice conditions with the Allies and adds, "It is generally believed that the Italian authorities have contacted the Allies in Rome through the British and American representatives at the Vatican." A report from a Swiss-Italian frontier to the *Basler Arbeiter Zeitung* states, "Italy is celebrating the downfall of the Fascist regime. Garibaldi's monument is covered with flowers and decorated with red sash. In festive mood bands are playing everywhere and people are dancing."

IT is as yet too early to say definitely what kind of reply Italy is going to give to the Churchill-Roosevelt message calling on the Italians to capitulate. But it seems as though she is likely to veer back to the old spirit of liberalism of Garibaldi. Marshal Badoglio may well turn out to be the head of a movement of liberation of Italy from the incubus of Fascism.

ONE is reminded of the great help given by Britain to Garibaldi whose march through Sicily and Naples with his celebrated "Thousand" was the most crucial event in the unification and independence of Italy. Britain prevented France and Austria from interfering by force and the presence of British warships in the harbour of Marsala deterred the Neapolitan Commander from bombarding the "Thousand" as they disembarked from their ships. And Garibaldi acknowledged Britain's aid by laying a curse on the Italians if they ever declared war on Britain.

THE curse has come true. Mussolini's dreams of vindicating Caesar and building up a great colonial empire have all crumbled into dust. When he became dictator in 1925, he thought he was a modern Caesar out to restore to Italy all the ancient glory and glamour of the Roman Empire. In *My Autobiography* Mussolini writes, "Victory was complete . . . At the end of January 1925, the Aventino with all opponents appeared destroyed, torn to pieces by a thousand internal discords and differences. I was winner again on the whole front . . ."! To-day Mussolini stands as a loser on all fronts; he built up an empire by aggression and lost it piece by piece. He sidetracked the development of Italian history and attempted to transform the Italian character so as to fit it into the Fascist pattern. Under his regime "Italy has been caught up in a vicious circle of isolated policy, depleted resources, financial bankruptcy and expanding militarism." But it may be stated that Mussolini never really succeeded in establishing a popular basis for his power or in winning the true sympathy and affection of the great mass of the Italian people whose genius has been essentially liberal and democratic. Neither did he achieve ultimate success in the war in which he involved Italy. The loyalty and devotion of the Italian people was to ancient Republican Rome rather than to ancient Imperial Rome, and what the Allies are seeking to do is to break this Fascist tyranny which has almost killed the old spirit of liberalism and disturbed the peace of the world in alliance with Hitlerite Germany, and restore it back to freedom and tolerance.

THE Rome radio has very often boasted that the intervention of Italy in the War in June 1940 forced Britain to concentrate a fleet in the Mediterranean and strain her naval power to such an extent that she did not have enough ships to attack Japan or even to oppose her. Rommel's campaigns in North Africa had their bases in Italy, and those campaigns would not have been possible but for the support of the Italian navy, army and air forces. Further, without Italy's help, Germany could not have completely conquered Greece and Yugoslavia. By undertaking the policing of the Balkans and relieving German forces for fighting on the Russian front, Mussolini has helped to pin down Allied forces and hold against them the two peninsulas of the Mediterranean Sea. By so doing, he defended the outposts and approaches of his Japanese and German Allies.

BUT now "the downfall of one of the principal criminals in this desolating war," as Mr. Churchill described it in the Commons on Tuesday, has brought about a great change in the situation. It has been described as a moral blow to the Axis. Mr. Churchill says, "The end of Mussolini's long and severe reign over the Italian people undoubtedly marks the close of an epoch in the life of Italy. The keystone of the Fascist arch has crumbled, and without attempting to prophesy, it does not seem unlikely that the entire Fascist edifice will fall to the ground in ruins—if it has not already so fallen."

IT is as though Italy is awakning from a long night of tyranny and oppression, war and destruction, and emerging into the twilight of peace. Mr. Churchill has assured the Italian people that there will be no ill-will towards a future Italy freed of Fascism and no ill-treatment of the Italian people. He has declared that unconditional surrender "never can mean that we should stain our victorious arms by inhumanity or by mere lust of vengeance." President Roosevelt has also declared that after the Fascist scourge has been removed, Italy would be restored to nationhood and should take her place as a respected member of the European family.

THIS WEEK—IN RETROSPECT

In the grim days of *this week in July* 1940, Britain was left virtually stranded, deserted and outnumbered, but she stood like a rock in the midst of a fierce cyclone. When France fell, Hitler could have, without a moment's delay, tried to cross the Channel. In the Mediterranean and Egypt the Italians, by a brutal and swift campaign, might have passed on the Suez Canal. But the conqueror of France could not muster sufficient courage to cross the 20-mile span of water, and the Fascist leader of Italy was feeling secure in the confidence that Britain, single-handed, could not continue the war any further. It was only in September that Graziani advanced into Egypt. He, however, stopped at Sidi Barrani.

Britain's helpless loneliness was a temptation for several others also to seek a bargain at her expense. General Franco declared, "The possession of Gibraltar is, for Spain, an imperative claim." Russia declared her neutrality and Rumania deserted altogether the cause of democracy. America dismissed the idea of war. Mr. Churchill frankly told his people that he had nothing to offer them, but "blood, toil, tears and sweat." Lord Halifax, the then Secretary for Foreign Affairs, stated on *July* 22, 1940: "Threats are of no avail against us; our resolution is unconquerable; we will not prosecute the war one day longer than is necessary; but we shall go on until liberty has been restored to us and to other nations."

* * * * *

This week in 1941 saw in full swing the second German offensive against Russia. It was started on *July* 11. The first offensive began on *June* 22, 1941, when Hitler marched his armies into Russain territory. The original German plan was very ambitious and daring. Their thrusts were directed towards Leningrad via Finland and Esthonia, towards Moscow through Minsk and Smolensk, and towards Kiev, the Ukranian Capital in the south. In their initial assault the Germans selected for their main thrust the White Russian front, covering Smolensk and Moscow. After nine days fighting, the capture of Minsk was announced. By the middle of the third week the pace of 20 miles a day of the German army had weakened, but Russia had lost Lithuania, most of Latvia, the western half of White Russia and part of the western Ukraine.

After this initial campaign and before the commencement of the second campaign, the regrouping of the Soviet armies was effected and Marshals Voroshilov, Timoshenko and Buddeny had been appointed to command the north-western, central and south-western theatres. On *July* 11, Vitebesk fell after fierce fighting and Germans claimed that the route to Moscow was open. Five days later, i.e., on the 16th their armoured units reached Smolensk, but their pace had been reduced to 12½ miles a day. Leningrad was in great danger as Talinin and Hango became beleaguered twons, while in the south the Germans had advanced from Volynsk to Zhitomir, 85 miles west of Kiev.

The beginning of *this week* in 1941, therefore, saw the Germans held up at Zhitomir in the south and at Smolensk in the centre. This week witnessed the battle of smolensk which has gone down in history for the vehemence with which it was conducted on both sides and the number of men and machines involved. The war in 1940 was a war of Spitfires and Hurricanes; this time the black Panzer divisions of Hitler saw their match. "Timoshenko is continually throwing fresh Panzer units against us" said the Nazi reporter. The German army found it increasingly difficult to maintain communications with advanced bases in Russia, and resorted to desperate tactics including the use of poison gas. On *July* 30, 1941, Smolensk was still in Russian hands.

On *July* 29, 1941, Finland severed her diplomatic relations with Britain, and on *July* 30 the Russo-Polish Agreement was signed in London in the presence of Mr. Churchill, by which the territorial changes made in Poland as a result of the Soviet-German treaties of 1939 were declared void.

Mr. Sumner Wells, United States Under Secretary of State, received the Japanese Ambassador, Admiral Nomura at Washington on *July* 24, 1943, for settlement of differences by peaceful negotiation. World opinion in general and American opinion in particular had condemned in no ambiguous terms Japan's move against Indo-China where, on *July* 24, Vichy was forced to cede to Japan her naval and military bases. Japan was also allowed to station 40,000 Japanese troops in South Indo-China, have eight air bases, including one on the new Thailand border, and two naval bases. Carmania Bay and Saigon. The United States of America and the British Commonwealth froze all Japanese assets and credits, while Japan, on her part, froze all American and British assets in her territory.

As regards the situation in North Africa during this week, there were no new developments. The British army was entrenched in Tobruk.

On 30*th July* 1941, Mr. Churchill said "For more than a year we have been all alone; all alone we have had to guard the treasures of mankind. Although there may be profound and encouraging changes in the situation, our own final and commanding responsibilities remain undiminished, and we shall only discharge them by continuing to pour out in the common cause the utmost endeavours of strength and virtue, and if need be, to proffer the last drop of our hearts' blood."

* * * * *

The week in 1942 was marked by a comparative lull in the military operations on the Egyptian front, which indicated that both sides were gathering strength for a decisive struggle. Both the armies, the British army under General Auchinleck, and the Axis forces under General Rommel, continued to remain entrenched at El Alamein. There were air raids by the Germans near Suez Canal and Cairo on *July* 29 *and* 30.

On the Russian front the greatest event of the week was the fall of Rostov into German hands on *July* 28, 1942, an event which helped the German thrust towards Caucasus for Russian oil. The next day the Nazis thrust towards Krasnodar, and drove towards Stalingrad from two directions. There was also heavy fighting on the Donetz bend. On the last day of *July* Stalin issued an order of the Day: "Every soldier and officer must stand and fight to Victory or Death."

It was during this week that His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester visited the North African theatre, arriving in Aden on 28*th July* 1943.

In the Pacific theatre the storm had subsided and the Japanese were trying to entrench themselves to the north of Australia. On *July* 27, 1942, a Japanese force landed in Papua in New Guinea and was thrusting towards Port Morseby. On the same day the Japanese planes bombed Port Darwin in Australia.

THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF FASCISM

THE BRAND OF THE DUCE

By DAVID SCOTT

THE first thing to remember about Italian Fascism is that there was no such thing when it first got into power. Mussolini's brand of Fascism didn't start ready-made, with a detailed programme, ready to put it into effect when it got the chance. The movement started as sheer anarchy, carried on all over Italy by gangs of young men obeying a leader whose only thought was to win power for himself by any means, fair or foul.

The Fascists say Mussolini saved Italy from Bolshevism. It is a lie. In 1919, when he first attracted public notice, Mussolini was inciting the Italian workmen to Bolshevism every day. They say he raised up a new, young Italy in the place of an effete democracy. It's a lie. What he did was to mobilize the unemployable young hooligans of all classes—the boys for whom the outbreak of peace was a problem—in his own service. They say he made an end of corruption in high places. On the contrary, he carried bribery to a point it had never attained in Italy before. But he didn't give the bribes. Oh, no—he took them.

Without any programme but his thirst for power, without any philosophy but his lust for plunder, Mussolini somehow managed to gain control of Italy and to keep it, so far, for about twenty years. What was the secret of his success?

The answer is fairly simple. Mussolini got where he is by the use of a certain technique unfamiliar to those who should have been on their guard. Not only was he absolutely unscrupulous in every ordinary sense of the word but he knew how to use anarchy as a step to power. He knew what too many of us still don't realize—that the form of rule we now call Fascism can be built on any sort of chaos and destruction provided the chaos is thorough and the destruction complete.

FIRST LEG UP

He knew nothing else but this. His whole being was concentrated on the seizure and holding of power in his own hands. He committed the most appalling blunders, got himself into the most damning situations. But he always won through, thanks to the other great factor in his career—the willingness of people who should have known better to give him a helping hand.

D'Annunzio first. You remember his occupation of the Jugoslav port of Fiume just after the last war. It appealed to the ordinary patriotic Italian who thought his country was jipped at Versailles. It lasted for about a year and ended in a fiasco. But it also gave Mussolini his first leg up.

At that time Mussolini owned and edited an obscure rag called *Popolo d'Italia,* which no one read. In it he preached revolutionary socialism and urged the workers to revolt. He thought that was a good horse to back in the feverish post-war days, but he found it unprofitable. The workmen he appealed to refused to take him seriously. They knew he'd sell out at the first opportunity. And they were right.

SUBSCRIPTION FOR BENITO

Finding that he couldn't bamboozle the workmen, Mussolini turned his attention to the patriotic middle and upper classes, who didn't know him as the workmen did. The *Popolo d'Italia* suddenly ceased to be socialist and announced itself as the official organ of the d'Annunzio movement. At the same time—and here you see the real Benito at work—it opened a subscription for the Fiume campaign. It was really a subscription for Benito. The manoeuvre succeeded brilliantly. At one stroke Mussolini filled his pockets and gained a hearing among his countrymen.

Behind the scenes, he transformed the Fascio, which he and a group of other left-wing malcontents had founded with an all-out socialist programme, into a nationalist militia on the d'Annunzio model. They adopted d'Annunzio's war-cry, 'Eya, eya, alala'—the Italian for Hi-de-hi, I suppose—and his marching song, 'Giovinezza,' the song of youth. And when the occupation of Fiume ended a year later, they enrolled d'Annunzio's young men in their own ranks.

THE BLACKSHIRTS

That was the origin of the Blackshirts. It is instructive, I think, that their very war-cry was not a form of words but a sort of hyena-howl. It meant nothing, for they had nothing to say. A vague yapping for blood was all that they could utter.

Now Giolitti. He was the Grand Old Man of Italian Liberal Politics. He objected to the war and had the courage to say so. But in June 1920 he came out of retirement to put things to rights. He it was, not Mussolini, who peaceably ended the strikes and occupation of factories in September of that year. He it was who, by firing one shell—only one, mind you—at d'Annunzio's palace in Fiume, brought the Fiume adventure to a close.

Giolitti was a downy old bird, as we say, full of years and sorrows. He knew his politics and he knew his Mussolini, too. He ended Mussolini's support of d'Annunzio by the simple process of offering Mussolini a big bribe, which the future Duce accepted with alacrity. So Mussolini sold out once more, and Giolitti had his way.

But there, alas, Giolitti's understanding of Mussolini's methods stopped short. The technique of securing power through anarchy was outside his experience. He made the fatal mistake of thinking that because he had bought off Mussolini once he could use him for his own purposes and then buy him off again or get rid of him when he had served his turn. To strengthen his own position against the remaining extremists of the Right and Left, Giolitti enlisted Mussolini's support. In the general election of 1921 he allowed 35 Fascists, to run as supporters of his own Government.

The 35 Fascists were elected and found themselves holding the balance of votes in a small Government majority. At the first opportunity they voted against Giolitti and defeated him. The further period of instability that followed gave Mussolini just the chance he wanted to create the disorder from which his New Order would spring.

Even so, the would-be Dictator was by no means sure of himself. At the slightest set-back he ran for cover, as you'll see.

MARCH ON ROME

In the autumn of 1922, when systematic riots and outrages by Mussolini's followers—not by the wicked Reds, as they say now—had made the task of Government almost impossible, the Fascists decided to stage their "March on Rome." It was fixed for October 28. But Facta, the unhappy Prime Minister of that day, at least had courage. He declared a state of siege and called out the troops.

MUSSOLINI'S BLUFF

This show of resistance was quite enough for the brave young Fascists. Off came their blackshirts, away went their badges. They scuttled like rabbits for their holes.

As for their great leader, he was attending a congress in Naples on October 27. When the state of siege was announced he fled all the way to Milan, at the other end of Italy, in terror of arrest. There he got ready to escape across the French frontier if a warrant were issued for him.

Mussolini's bluff was called, and he wouldn't face the music. But once more he was to be saved by one of those unhoped-for intervention that mark his career. This time it was King Victor Emmanuel's turn to be his saviour.

In the afternoon of October 28, the Stefani Agency announced that the King had refused to sign Facta's proclamation of the state of siege. The proclamation was therefore invalid. Later it was announced that the Facta Ministry had resigned.

The news spread like wild fire. Within a few hours the Fascist "March on Rome" developed with a vengeance, not in the form of a military parade but in that of a bank holiday junket on a gigantic scale. All over Italy young men in black shirts, acting on a single order from their headquarters, boarded trains without paying and rolled toward Rome.

That night Mussolini's legions were assembled in the capital. The Duce himself arrived the next morning in a sleeping-car; but he had in his pocket the King's telegram appointing him Prime Minister.

From that time on it was plain sailing for Fascism. Very soon the Totalitarian State was established by the simple process of stamping out liberty wherever it could be found. But, even then, the excesses of Mussolini's followers nearly cost the Dictator his place.

The murder of the Socialist Deputy Mateotti, coming after a long series of crimes and cruelties, aroused such a storm of protest that Mussolini, after denouncing everyone else he could think of, had to confess his responsibility. The very magnitude of the scandal saved

(*Continued on page* 10)

R.A.F. PILOT'S ESCAPE ON MONSOON-SWEPT BURMA FRONT

"It don't mean a thing if you don't pull the string" says smiling W/O. Pilot F. D. C. Brown from Canterbury, New Zealand.

HURTLING down unconscious for almost four miles, with lightning playing round him in one of the worst monsoon storms ever experienced on the Burma front, a 21-year-old pilot, Warrant Officer Francis D. C. Brown, of Canterbury, New Zealand, who escaped from his damaged aircraft, has achieved a probable record "delayed-drop" parachute descent—and lives to-day to tell the tale.

Only instinctive presence of mind acquired by his training saved him as he slowly began to "come round" at 3,000 feet. Still half-dazed, he grasped the rip-cord, opened his parachute, and landed safely.

He had dropped 20,000 feet with his parachute unopened.

Just before the war began John Tranum, a United States "stunt" dropper, made a delayed descent of 17,000 feet.

But this was no stunt on the part of the Royal Air Force. It was one of the hazards which face fliers in the dangerous stretch of country that constitutes much of the Burmese front.

The pilot nearly landed in the sea, but managed to float down on to a small islet. Flying in thick cloud over Bengal, his aircraft had developed an uncontrollable spin, which stunned and partly blinded him, and he was either flung out unconscious or instinctively "baled out." When he regained consciousness he found he was falling at terrific speed and was only 3,000 feet up, but the terrific jerk as his parachute billowed out slowed him down to about 15 miles per hour.

STRANGE VISITOR FROM THE SKY

Bengalis on the islet where he landed feted him as a strange visitor from the sky, rushed to give him coconut milk, hot tea, and goat's milk one after the other as "revivers"—a strange mixture of local drinks—tended him until he could be taken on a 20-hour journey by bullock-cart and sampan to hospital, and pressed Indian garments ("dhotis") upon him to replies his flying garb.

Still wearing goggles to shield his eyes, which were injured in the drop, he told a Royal Air Force Public Relations Officer the account of his remarkable escape.

"I flew for twenty minutes in what seemed to be a sheer wall of clouds, and got into the heart of a violent storm, with lightning playing all round," he said.

"Conditions were very bumpy, and the engine began to ice-up. Suddenly the aircraft got into a spin, and though I applied 'correction' it became worse.

"Thrown forward into the controls, I hit my head, felt a terrific pressure behind my eyes, and lost consciousness.

"The next thing I knew was when I regained consciousness and found myself falling over and over, through thick cloud seemingly quite slowly but really at a fast speed. I must have been unconscious for almost a minute.

"Just then my descent took me out of the cloud, and I saw the ground below, just in time, though still in a daze, to open my parachute. I groped agonisingly for the rip-cord, and the speed of my drop diminished. I floated down.

"I must have subconsciously unfastened my harness and been flung or 'baled out' of the plane as it dropped, being revived as I got into the lower atmosphere.

"The aircraft itself was damaged, and I saw pieces of it floating down alongside me when I was dropping rapidly before opening my parachute, which slowed me up."

TRIP TO THE BASE

After the pilot landed in a rice-field his strange trip to base began. A small boy who saw him land ran half a mile to the nearest village for help, and he was assisted there, half walking, half stumbling.

For the first night he had to sleep in a grass-covered hut in a small village, on the islet, where only three people spoke even a smattering of English, but he was given food and drink and a rough bed.

Melons, bananas, rice, tea, and native "dhal" were given him by the villagers, whose two headmen arranged the next day for him to go for four hours by bullock-cart to the nearest police station.

The schoolmaster asked him to make a speech to the children, the pilot sat cross-legged on the bullock-cart, and villagers ran from fields to greet him as he made his four hours' journey, like a triumphal procession, along six miles of jungle roads.

The headman explained to all who came how the New Zealander had "dropped from the sky."

When he got to the police station, he had to spend another night there, before going on a journey across the sea by sampan lasting from 4 p.m. one day to 8 a.m. the next.

The storm had subsided, and he safely arrived at hospital, where he spent a fortnight recovering from his injuries, which included burst blood-vessels behind his eyes.

The first thing he did upon rejoining his squadron was to thank the parachute packer, LAC. J. N. Powell, of Prescot, Lancashire.

And the pilot's comment on his exploit:—"I made my parachute landing just as laid down in the book—missed a clump of palm trees by 20 feet, and landed in soft earth."

W/O Brown attended Christchurch Technical School, New Zealand, and later took up sheep-farming before joining the Royal Air Force in 1940.

W/O Brown with his parachute packer LAC. J. N. Powell from Prescot, Lancashire whom he thanked after recovery from his injuries.

A MESSAGE TO MALTA, G.C.

By LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR WILLIAM DOBBIE, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., D.S.O.

SINCE I last spoke to you much has happened. There have been great and wonderful developments in the situation which have affected the whole of our outlook not only in the Mediterranean but in the whole world. It is, I think, true to say that no place in our Empire has been more profoundly affected by these happenings than has Malta—and that is a thing in which I greatly rejoice.

I frequently look back on the last twelve months, and note the path which the people of Malta have, in the providence of God, been called upon to tread. I remember well the conditions prevailing this time last year while I was still in Malta. Malta was at that time going through a grim and prolonged ordeal. The constant and heavy attacks by the Luftwaffe against the fortress will not be forgotten by those who experienced them, and by the same token the extremely heavy losses inflicted by Malta on the enemy will not be forgotten by them.

It was, as I say, a grim ordeal, but it certainly was not a profitless one. The enemy tried to stop the offensive being carried on from Malta. In this he failed, and the happenings since in Egypt, Libya and Tunis are a proof that Malta did make some contribution to these successes.

Moreover, the ordeal through which Malta passed was of real value to our cause for another reason as well. The force of the Luftwaffe which the enemy had to detach to Sicily, and the tremendous losses which that force sustained, must have imposed a tremendous strain on his resources; and at a time when he dearly wanted to use them against Russia, where he was losing his air supremacy. Malta's ordeal, therefore, not only helped the Eighth Army in Africa, but it undoubtedly helped our Russian Allies as well.

As Malta looks back on that grim period it can be thankful that it was privileged to serve our Allied cause in this direct fashion and that its sufferings were not in vain.

But, of course, Malta's ordeal was not only because of the bombs that the enemy dropped from the skies. It lay also in the stern necessity imposed on the island to economise in food and other necessities so that they might be eked out to the limit and last as long as possible. That was a necessity which Malta understood and accepted. It knew the price that the Royal Navy had to pay to bring ships to Malta with the longed-for supplies. Malta was determined not to impose any unnecessary burden on these two magnificent Services, and thus accepted hardships and privations of the greatest severity. I would like to assure the people of Malta that what they underwent in the matter of these privations has not passed unnoticed in Britain. The spirit with which the people have faced all the dangers that threatened them has won the high regard of the whole Empire, and indeed of the world, and I do not tire in telling this country what a great contribution that spirit has made to our cause.

From the moment when Italy entered the war against us all dangers have been faced calmly and confidently by the people and garrison of the fortress. The dangers arising out of the extreme weakness of our defences in the early days, the incessant air attacks designed to break the spirit of the people, and the hardships due to the acute shortage of supplies—all these things have been faced with real courage and determination. And as a result, and especially on account of God's great goodness to us all, Malta to-day remains in British hands and is ready to play whatever further role may be assigned to her.

Individuals and peoples learn, or should learn, by experience, and very often they learn most in the hard school of adversity and ordeal. I often look back over the past, and certain lessons from what we passed through together seem to stand out in relief against the background of the grim happenings of those days. If we want to pay our part in the future and pull our weight we need to think of these lessons in the past and apply them in the future. Three of these lessons seem to me to be especially prominent. They are as follows:—

First.—Courage and determination in individuals or communities are just as necessary to-day as ever. It is the spirit of a man or a people that matters and not only the material resources that may be available. Let us see to it then that we foster the right spirit in our lives so that we may face the future with courage and determination.

Second.—Co-operation between various persons and communities is of untold value in the face of common dangers and difficulties. I mean, of course, co-operation in spirit and not only in the letter. We shall need it to the full in the dangers and problems that still lie ahead of us. Selfishness, whether in individuals or in peoples or sections of the people, must at all costs be eradicated if we are to derive the full benefits of the schooling we have undergone. We want to aim at the common good, realising that 'No man liveth unto himself.'

Third.—As we look back we gladly acknowledge all those whose devotion and courage have so wonderfully contributed to the successful defence of Malta. But surely we see over and above all these the good hand of our God upon us, and realize something of what we owe to Him for His help and protection. That is a lesson which we must not forget. We must realize that in the future, as in the past, we cannot do without His help, and we must ensure that there is nothing in us, individually or collectively, that will prevent Almighty God from giving that help to us.

I would end on a personal note. Lady Dobbie, my daughter, and I send our warmest greetings to our many friends in Malta, of whom we are constantly thinking, and we remember with pleasure the two very happy years we spent with you.

—Broadcast from the B.B.C.

THE BRAND OF THE DUCE.

(Continued from page 8)

him—too many people were afraid of being involved if he were formally accused. But the name of the assassin stank in the nostrils of his people. In other countries, progressive Governments would have nothing to do with his regime.

None the less, Mussolini stuck to his guns, waiting for something to turn up. The inaction of the European powers when he bombarded Corfu soon after taking control had shown him that he could get away with murder abroad, if not a home. And, sure enough, the third intervention he needed was not long in coming.

FIRST-CLASS SHOWMAN

In December 1924, Mr. (afterwards Sir) Austen Chamberlain, the British Foreign Secretary, was on a holiday cruise in the Mediterranean. He paid Mussolini a six-day visit in Rome. Needless to say, poor Chamberlain was both charmed and impressed by the Duce. He probably knew very little of Fascist goings-on in Italy; and if Musso's nothing else, he's a first-class showman.

From that time until he sold himself and his country at last to Hitler, Mussolini never looked back. Short-sighted international patronage set him firmly on his feet. He acquired undeserved prestige, and with it an arrogance before which the appeasing Chamberlains, Austen and Neville after him, cowered ever lower. Within ten or twelve years the process of internal consolidation, the blacking out of the spirit in Italy, was finished. Now came the period of external aggression.

You know the rest of the story; it's still going on. It's costing the life of someone dear to me, or to you, to one or many of us, this hour, this minute, every day. It has already cost the lives of tens of thousands of decent but misguided Italian boys, Mussolini's dupes and victims. And it all comes of letting a mountebank sell himself to the world as a man of genius. The rise of Mussolini was a chapter of accidents, a series of personal crises from which he escaped by trickery at the expense of others. The thing would be comic if it hadn't plunged a world in tragedy.

It all comes of not taking care of the good health of democracy; of letting the wheels of progress stop; of listening to the first self-seeking quack who pretends he has a quick cure for political aches and pains. For your Fascist leader's just that: a quack physician who isn't out to cure anybody's troubles but his own.

The truth is simply this: there's no short cut to well-being, for communities any more than for individuals. There's no hope for the people in any programme that aims at any other purpose than the people's good. Only by keeping that fact steadily in mind, by refusing to listen to any self-styled saviours of society, can we hope to find our way to a saner and a kinder world.

—Broadcast in B.B.C.'s short wave overseas service.

I WAS IN JAPAN

By MRS. IDA KINLOCH

IN the Spring of 1939 I decided to go to England by way of Japan, and visit some old friends who had been resident there for many years. I sailed from Singapore in the German liner *Scharnhorst*. It is a magnificent vessel and one of the latest of the German Merchant service. There were over 2,000 Jewish refugees on board, all crowded into the second class, bound for Shanghai. For the most part they only carried hand luggage and they were only allowed to bring out of Germany a very small sum in cash. In the first class there were comparatively few passengers. Except for myself and about half-a-dozen others, they were mostly German officers proceeding to Japan with their families, to take up appointments there.

At our destination, the Purser accepted payment of our ship's bills in any currency of the countries where the ship had called, but our change was given in Reich Marks. They were a brilliant red colour, and printed in small black type, was the statement that they would be accepted on any German vessel or the Reich itself. In conjunction with the other English speaking passengers, I protested and asked for my change in Japanese Yen, or the currency of the Straits Settlements, but we were told nothing could be done about it. We had either to accept Reich Marks or forego our change altogether! They were useless to me, so I handed my change to an Australian Roman Catholic Brother for tips to the stewards.

AT KOBE

Arrived at Kobe, the Customs officials examined our luggage with the greatest scrutiny. The Passport Officer enquired why I had come to Japan without my husband, what his profession was and the reason why he was not travelling with me. Many other very personal questions followed and I came near to losing my patience, but thought I might be refused landing if I were equally rude.

My friends met me with a taxi. They had been forced to give up their car owing to petrol shortage and taxation. Even taxis were scarce and had to be ordered in advance. Very few were free and plying for hire in the streets.

Kobe and Osaka are really one immense city, each with their own docks. Osaka is the industrial half, while Kobe is residential. Space is very precious in a congested country like Japan, and the factories of Osaka are built so closely together that from a distance one sees a forest of chimney stacks, all belching out black smoke. No matter what the industry, for years past the factories of Japan had been working 24 hours to the day. Once an engine or machine was installed, it was only stopped for overhaul or repair.

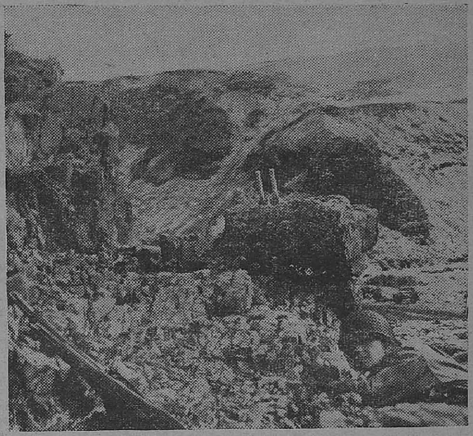
Here and in other places I visited in Japan, roads were suffering through lack of maintenance, some of the pot-holes being as large as 3 feet across and a couple of feet deep. On making enquiry, I was told that the country was at war and no money was being spent on repairs.

RATIONING IN JAPAN

Fuel, light, water and a great many other commodities were rationed. I had brought a box of chocolates for my hostess's little son, and these were the first sweets he had seen for nearly a year. Soap, when it could be obtained, was worth its weight in gold. Butter, sugar and fresh fruits were also scarce. Although Japan grows tea herself, Indian tea is preferred by the Japanese who can afford it. The price at that time was nearly Rs. 12 a pound.

Dwelling houses in Japan are not large and have a form of central heating, by means of a type of anthracite stove in the entrance hall. Outside doors and all windows are kept closed, while inside doors are left open for the heated air to circulate. Street lighting was scant and in Kobe a few months later, it was practically cut out altogether, not for fear of air raids but because electricity could not be spared. A few months later also, the water-supply was further reduced. It was only available a few hours during the day, with the result that all the taps in the city were turned on at once. It was impossible to draw enough water for all household requirements, and was a particular hardship to foreigners who were not allowed to use the public bath houses.

My amah had forgotten to pack my heavy dressing-gown but I thought I could buy one quite cheaply in the land of Kimonas. The price, however, was actually more than double the figure which would have been quoted anywhere outside Japan. In order to obtain foreign currency, merchants outside Japan were forced to dispose of their goods at prices which would ensure quick sale. As it appeared to me, there were practically no imported goods going into Japan, whereas exports were increasing by each ship that left the country. It reminded me of a conversation I had had with a Japanese merchant in Singapore shortly before I left. His shop was full to overflowing with merchandise, and he told me he had just received instructions from the Industrial Bureau that he was to indent to Japan for more goods up to a certain figure. He could not afford to part with so much cash, neither had he the space to put the goods when they arrived. It was the last time I saw him, for he died mysteriously shortly after the outbreak of the European War. There are branches of the Japanese Industrial Bureau wherever Japanese merchants have business. It is a branch of the Japanese Government who advise shopkeepers how to conduct their business, and they finance new businesses. Monthly returns are made to the Bureau by the shopkeepers, so that the Government knows exactly how much money is vested in that particular country. Surely, this indicates the restricted freedom of the Japanese, even after they have left their native land. Later, when I went to Hawaii, I found the same procedure there. Men whose parents or grandparents had settled there long before they were born, were even receiving "calling-up" papers to return to Japan and join the fighting forces. Many of these men could not speak Japanese and had no desire to leave the land of their adoption, but they were warned of the consequences if they failed to obey the summons, as action would be taken against their relatives in Japan.



ACTION DURING VICTORIOUS UNITED STATES DRIVE ON ATTU.—A United States soldier takes cover behind rocks as a Japanese anti-aircraft shell bursts overhead during the fighting for the Aleutian island of Attu. This rocky ridge is typical of the terrain over which American troops fought before winning complete control of the island.

HEROES RETURN

Kobe, like Yokohama, is a modern city with many large concrete buildings. Shopping was expensive and it was therefore surprising to see the largest store in Kobe swarming with people. I remarked this to my friend and she advised me to watch for the sales and not the people. We went all over the store and I purchased a few odds and ends, but did not witness a single other transaction. The people had merely come to the store to keep warm. Our shopping expedition was interrupted by the alarum bell. Assistants hurriedly tidied their counters, and the people were instructed to leave the building as quickly as possible. My friend whispered to me that "the heroes were returning" and told me not to ask questions until we were alone. All traffic had been stopped and the pavements were packed with people, and then the procession appeared. The *Gneisenau* sister ship to the *Scharnhorst* had brought home to Japan the ashes of a few thousand heroes who had been killed in China. Wounded soldiers, dressed in white with a red sash, slung over the right shoulder, each carried in his hands a small white wooden box containing the ashes of a hero. Other wounded, too maimed to walk, were conveyed in motor buses filled with the small wooden caskets. The procession took about ten minutes to pass in silence. Only the soft tread of feet could be heard. As they passed, everyone

bent almost double and kept their eyes on the ground. I was curious to see what was happening and kept bobbing up to peep, much to the anxiety of my friend. I understand there was another ceremony when the caskets were handed over to the respective relatives, but I did not witness this. The same procedure is adopted throughout the cities of Japan when her dead heroes return, and there is a steady stream of worshippers to their favourite shrines, carrying offerings of rice-cakes.

Traffic rules are very stringent throughout Japan, and in the cities pedestrians are only allowed to cross the roads between steel studs sent into the roadway. The policeman on point duty stops traffic while pedestrians cross over. If anyone ventures to cross outside the steel studs, he immediately blows his whistle. Everybody stands still while he approaches the culprit. The policeman then takes him by the arm and marches him up and down the proper crossing place ten times, while the populace looks on. The policeman then dismisses him with a caution. If he is found to do it again, he is arrested.

While in Japan I attended the naming ceremony of a Japanese baby and expected to see a colourful display of kimonas. I was disappointed, however, for the young mother was dressed in a plain kimona of black and grey, and all the guests were similarly attired in sombre colours of black and white, grey or brown. Gaily coloured and embroidered kimonas are manufactured for export and are seldom seen in Japan itself, except probably at weddings or by waitresses in tea shops.

LAUGHING FORBIDDEN

One day my friend and I were walking along one of the main streets of Kobe. We were re-calling a funny incident which had occurred some years previously and were enjoying a good laugh, when she suddenly stopped laughing and told me to keep quiet. Naturally I was surprised, and had not noticed a nearby policeman looking at us intently. After we passed him she told me that laughing was forbidden in Japan as the country was in mourning and at war.

The city of Yokohama was quite deserted of vehicles. The famous Grand Hotel stands in one of the main thoroughfares, constructed to take four lanes of traffic. I remember how strange it seemed not to see a single vehicle, even during business hours when one expects to see motor cars, taxis and lorries. With the exception of tramcars, which were packed to overflowing, there was scarcely any form of transport whatever. I was advised not to travel by railway until things improved. In common with other public transport, rolling stock was not receiving the attention it required. Spare parts were not available and experienced men were being replaced by youths under military age, with the result that accidents were on the up grade. There were no lights in the shop windows and inside, shopkeepers burned tiny little oil lamps instead of electric lights. The effect was most depressing especially in the cold drizzling rain.

Yokohama is further north than Kobe and therefore colder. In the Grand Hotel, which was full of German officials, central heating was practically negligible and residents wore their heavy out-door coats all the time.

JAPANESE WOMEN AND TEA-MAKING

Tea-making in Japan is a ceremony which every Japanese woman must learn—it is part of their education. One can therefore assume that when the brew is ready, something special may be expected, but the tea which was prepared for the guests of the Grand Hotel was weak and of poor quality.

Because of restricted grazing space, Japan does not raise sufficient cattle, sheep, etc., to feed the population but the seas abound with fish. Milk has to be imported, and a substitute prepared from soya beans is manufactured for the poor people who cannot afford real milk.

To conclude, it will be seen that Japan has adopted the same policy as Germany. The people are without freedom and the country is run by militarists. At the time of my visit, Japan was involved in what they call the China Incident. The lot of the Japanese people may well be imagined to have deteriorated rather than improved after a further four years of war.

A talk from A.I.R., Madras, on Monday, July 26.

CRUSH THE ENEMY IN THE GRIP OF FRIENDSHIP!

JAPAN'S PRESENT MILITARY POSITION IN THE PACIFIC

By R. W. ROBSON, *Editor of* **Pacific Islands Monthly.**

BETWEEN December 1941 and April 1942, Japan not only disclosed formidable naval strength and unexpected air power, but she combined it with a genius, hitherto unsuspected, in co-ordinating the strength of her arms with her twenty-year-old design for creating a new empire. Between December 1941 and April 1942 she put into operation the first two stages of her master plan. This provides for overrunning and occupying and rapidly exploiting all the countries of South-East Asia and the Western Pacific and binding them into one self-contained economic organization.

Now, if we want to estimate accurately the present position in the Pacific we must remember that when Japan's forces ceased their concerted outwards thrust last April Japan apparently had gained all the territories sought under her master plan. Thenceforward, if my interpretation is correct, she was concerned primarily with defence. And I think that defence in this master plan provides for two things: first, for the creation of a defensive organization in a wide area of no-man's-land along a perimeter between the Allied forces and her newly seized empire; and, second, for attack wherever it may appear that attack will assist the defenders.

My interpretation of the present situation confirms my view of Japan's master plan in the following way. The perimeter of the new empire which the Japanese hope to hold finally runs west of Malaya and the Netherlands East Indies and thence south of the Indies and the Caroline Islands and east of the Marshalls. Within that empire Japan can find a home for her vast surplus populations; she can find raw materials for every conceivable industry; and she can find scope for all the organizing genius of Hirohito's modestly self-assertive race. I don't think the primitive, undeveloped regions of Western Burma, New Guinea, New Britain, and the Solomons are part of the proposed empire. If they should remain in enemy occupation they'll be complacently gathered in under the Japanese flag. But Japan's chief purpose in occupying them is to prepare them for use in the *second* stage of the master plan—that is, as the battleground in the war of defence. They are intended to cushion the impact of an Allied attack upon the empire which the Japanese found all ready for them when they seized the rich, well-developed territories of Malaya, the East Indies, Siam, Indo-China and the Philippines.

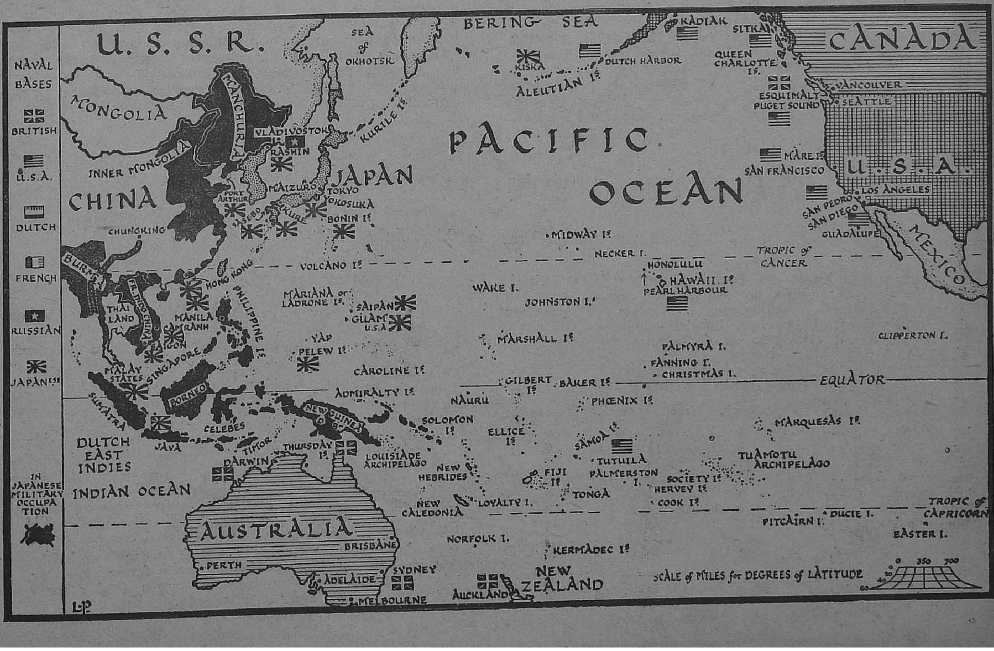
If, while preparing the perimeter territories of New Guinea and the Solomons for unconquerable defence, the Japanese find it desirable to thrust sharply southwards at the gathering Allied forces in Australia, New Caledonia, and even Fiji and New Zealand, and if such enterprises give in return some permanent territorial gains, so much the greater will be the glory of the Son of Heaven.

Since first I began writing on this matter ten years ago I have never altered my view that the empire coveted by the Japanese comprises South-Eastern Asia, the East Indies, Borneo, and the Philippines, with suzerainty over China. And all that has happened since Pearl Harbour confirms my arguments.

I believe that the Jap master plan provides, *first*, for surprise attack in overwhelming force; *second*, for the quickest possible preparation of a deep-defence perimeter; *third*, for the most intensive organization of industries in the captured countries to assist in providing food and munitions for the Japanese; and, *fourth*, for a long, bitter defence calculated to wear down the Allied counter-attack and enable Japan to retain the territories she has captured. Stages *one* and *two* were successfully accomplished by April last. Since April the Japs have concentrated most of their energies upon stages *three* and *four*—namely, the exploitation of the conquered territories and preparations for defence. I don't believe that the Japanese have abandoned any section of that plan.

JAPAN'S TWO ALTERNATIVES

There are only two alternatives before Japan: to devote all her strength to defending the empire she has seized, or to seek out and try to destroy the major forces of America and Britain. The Japanese now realize that they cannot defeat America and Britain on the sea or in the air. The bitter defeats they have sustained in recent months have taught them that, lacking air mastery, they cannot transport masses of troops by sea. So what now? Japan's other alternative is plain. All the data available and all the incidents of the past nine months convince me that we are now to see the *fourth* stage of the Jap master plan—and this provides, as I've already said, for the most stubborn and merciless defence of which this hard-fighting people is capable, carried out on a far-flung perimeter of defence that has been thoroughly and systematically prepared.



I am not suggesting that the Japs will simply wait in their new empire's defensive perimeter, and that there is now little danger of attacks on Australia, New Caledonia, and India. Unquestionably it is part of the Japanese strategy to use the powerful establishments of this defensive perimeter as bases for smashing attacks upon the gathering forces of the Allies *if* she can provide the necessary air cover for these blows. Almost certainly they will come in the future, as they have in the past—from New Guinea against the Southern Solomons and Papua areas; from the Netherlands Indies against North-Western Australia, and from Central Burma against Western Burma and India. If those thrusts should result in Japanese occupation of more territory, then, as I've said, so much the greater will be the glory of Nippon.

Everything that has happened in recent months fits in with this general hypothesis and also explains the obvious embarrassments of the Japanese High Command. The master plan, so successfully operated in the first two stages and still being faithfully adhered to, makes no provision for air mastery by the Allies and for the fact that Allied aircraft factories can outbuild and are outbuilding Japan's. We have already seen that every thrust made by Japan at the Allies in the South Pacific since last April has been smashed by air power. Allied aircraft are taking increased toll of Japanese shipping. Countless islands guard enemy transport against our cruisers and submarines; but these also compel enemy ships to follow well-defined tracks—and this means that they can more readily be found by our aircraft.

ISLAND-PERIMETER DEFENCE PLAN OUTMODED BY ALLIED AIR MASTERY

It is becoming clearer every week that not only does Allied air mastery now threaten the success of every thrust made from Japan's defensive perimeter, but that the strength of the perimeter, which was regarded as secure against military or naval assault, may crumble with the increasing weight of Allied air power. The master plan was made in the days of the Maginot-Line mentality. Just as the Maginot-Line plan was outmoded by panzers, so the island-perimeter defence plan is being outmoded by aviation developments.

You mustn't suppose that this can be seen here and not in Tokyo. The Japs are as calculating and shrewd as they are ruthless and cruel. They couldn't have been as silly as their broadcast communiqués suggested when they were reading the lessons of their defeats in early battles in the South Pacific, especially the battles of the Coral Sea, Midway, and the Solomons. They must have known many months ago that their master plan, so carefully made in the middle 'thirties, might collapse if it couldn't take care of a development in the early 'forties—namely, Allied air mastery. So we may ask this question: have we seen in recent months any special development of Japanese activity which might be regarded as Japan's answer to the inevitable growing air mastery of the Allies? I think we have. I think that all this reported Japanese activity in the creation of bases—and especially air bases—in the Northern Solomons, New Britain, the north coast of New Guinea and various other southern islands in the East Indies, indicates Japan's determination to build up her defences in the perimeter of her new empire to most formidable strength and upon lines calculated to defy attack by the most powerful air force that can be assembled. Practically every report indicate that intensive provision for land-based aircraft is being included in those perimeter defences.

THE JAPANESE BELIEVE . . . BUT

I think the Japanese are arguing that the Allies can't deprive them of their new empire unless they break through that defensive perimeter, and that the Allies can't do this finally without employing great naval and military forces in addition to air power. The Japanese believe that when that time comes they can inflict such staggering losses that the heart of the attack may be broken. But this Japanese argument is based on adherence to Japan's original master plan, which is already outmoded. Don't think the Allies are going to try anything so foolhardy as penetration of that vast defensive perimeter and reduction of all those powerful bases so painfully prepared for their embarrassment.

I base my forecast of Allied strategy upon the clear and deliberate words of General MacArthur on January 25. He said that air power permitted a broadened conception of warfare and application of offensive power in swift, massive strokes rather than the dilatory and costly island-to-island advance that some assumed necessary. Subsequent statements made by him show that General MacArthur is placing his faith in air power. MacArthur is not conforming to Tojo's master plan. MacArthur's men are not going out on an island-hopping campaign against countless numbers of prepared fortresses. Japan has a hard-fighting army composed of millions of men. At present it is semi-immobilised and semi-useless. The mountains and jungles of Western Burma and the thousand waterways of the Western Pacific plus Allied air mastery shut it off from the British forces in India and the American and Australian forces in the South Seas. At present a considerable portion of the Japanese army is scattered through the Netherlands Indies, Borneo, Malaya, the Philippines, and what I called the perimeter areas such as Burma, New Guinea and the Solomons, pathetically waiting and hoping the Allies will come and attack them.

THE FATE THAT IS NOW IN SIGHT

Well, I think the Allies have plans of their own, and I'm quite sure our High Command will not only choose the battlefield where Japan will be destroyed but will direct the character of the fighting on that battlefield.

Japan's master plan was bold and clever and succeeded up to a point. But the effect of that success has been to spread out Japan's armed forces over ten thousand square miles of East Asia, Indonesia, and the Western Pacific so that in certain conditions they are extremely vulnerable. And that, I suggest, is only just and right, for Japan's master plan was based on treachery, ruthlessness, and greed, and well deserves the fate that is now in sight for both the plan and the planners.

THE SETTING SUN: JAP NAVAL LOSSES

(From start of war to 23rd July 1943)

Japanese naval losses are compiled weekly from United States Naval communiqués, as well as from reports issued by General MacArthur's headquarters. Because of possible minor duplications, which cannot be determined at the time reports are issued, the two totals cannot be accurately combined.

SUMMARY FROM NAVAL COMMUNIQUES.

Combatant ships.	*Sunk.*	*Probably sunk.*	*Damaged.*
Battleships	2	..	9
Aircraft carriers	6	1	7
Cruisers	25	4	47
Destroyers	74	20	62
Submarines	6	1	6
Tenders	1	1	4
Unspecified types	24	3	17
Total	138	30	152
Non-combatant ships	222	24	109

SUMMARY FROM MACARTHUR COMMUNIQUES.

Combatant ships.	*Sunk.*	*Probably sunk.*	*Damaged.*
Battleships	..	..	1
Aircraft carriers	1	..	2
Cruisers	11	..	21
Destroyers	19	3	24
Submarines	10	..	2
Tenders	2	..	..
Gunboats	4	..	..
Torpedo boats	1	1	1
Unspecified types	1	1	1
Total	49	5	52
Non-combatant ships	121	30	184
Unidentified	12	..	13

In addition to these ships reported as sunk, probably sunk and damaged by General MacArthur's forces, there are 252 miscellaneous small craft such as barges, fishing boats, etc. which have been "sunk or damaged".

TEACHERS AND THE WAR EFFORT

By N. SARANGAPANI IYENGAR

SOME people have unwittingly complained that the teacher in Southern India has been indifferent, and even lethargic, in a season of grave peril which now faces, not only the whole world, but also India. I say "unwittingly" advisedly, as I feel that the teacher has not been judged fairly, regard being had to his unique position in society and in institutions under public management. This position has to be seriously considered. The teacher in villages is in a peculiar environment. He is the object of envious criticism in several centres, owing to his being a regular wage-earner in money, while the majority of villagers earn their livelihood in kind. Another reason is that several teachers do not identify themselves with any of the factions in the village, and both factions comment on his activities in an unfriendly spirit. Further a fair percentage of the men belonging to the profession have had to keep aloof and inactive till recently, since they were precluded from participating in any activity in which the Government were engaged, as a result of executive instructions issued by public bodies who were out of sympathy with the war effort and who believed that this is not India's war. Still some others could not find the time required for engaging in extra activities beyond running their own schools, since they find it a hard job to collect their pupils at the beginning of the day, keep them together during school session and escort them back safely to their homes in the evening, besides attending to their work of preparation and of livelihood. In short, the teacher is taken to be quite unresponsive to external stimuli, owing to a lack of due appreciation of the above considerations.

From a brief review of the contribution of teachers to several departments of war effort, it will be evident that they have also done their mite for furthering war effort in this Presidency. These activities may be grouped as (i) financial assistance including Entertainments, Defence Savings movement, etc., (ii) recruitment including Civil Defence Services, (iii) propaganda, through radio talks, public meetings and dissemination of news through literature and war songs, cinema shows, etc., and (iv) salvage collection and miscellaneous items. The last category includes also the collection of scraps, waste paper, training for ambulance services and war charities. The part played by teachers in regard to these services may be examined hereunder:

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The earliest form of activities were for making contributions to the Governor's War Fund. Teachers in a good number of schools with the exception of a few in public managed institutions contributed one day's pay and made small collections from pupils for the Governor's War Fund. Contributions were also secured by voting amounts ranging from Rs. 5 to Rs. 50 out of Teachers' Association funds at periodical gatherings of teachers in almost 95 per cent of the Teachers' Associations. When raffles were floated, two or three in each district, teachers have, at the instance of Inspecting Officers, purchased raffle tickets, both individually and collectively in the name of their schools or associations. The percentage of their contributions made to raffles may be taken to be approximately 7 per cent of the total value of raffles. In a few cases, teachers have auctioned prizes won at raffle draws and paid the proceeds to Governor's War Fund. They have, in many cases, influenced local people also to purchase raffle tickets and make donations for Children's Shows, the net proceeds of which have been remitted to the Governor's War Fund.

Teachers in a good number of institutions in the Southern districts, of which I have personal knowledge, have organized variety entertainments, exhibitions, pantomime shows, dramas, fetes, fairs and the small collections coming out of these shows have been contributed to Governor's War Fund. In one instance, the proceeds of a dance of a school girl which amounted to Rs. 75 in an evening show were remitted to the Red Cross Fund for relief to distressed Indian seamen. In big towns like Madras, Madura and Dindigul, test matches have been arranged for War Fund purposes, and teachers not only attended and participated in these, but also induced students to attend and to participate. The matches were really fruitful, both in respect of additions to district funds for war purposes and of providing enjoyable time for the public in urban and rural areas.

As regards the Defence Savings Movement, the teachers have diverted investment of their credits in Provident Fund lodged in Post Office Savings Bank into Defence Savings Certificates in place of Post Office Five-year Cash Certificates. In several individual secondary schools and colleges, the staff started a Co-operative Defence Savings purchase system on the model of the Chit Fund and Savings Certificates have been purchased and handed over to one member of each group by the method of drawing lots. In one district alone, as many as 20 groups worked and 20 certificates were purchased and distributed every month. This may not be a considerable contribution, but the spirit behind it should be appreciated, when it is remembered that teachers are in the lowest rung of the economic ladder in this Presidency.

RECRUITMENT, INCLUDING CIVIL DEFENCE SERVICES

The teaching profession is considered to be the least capable of contributing to active service. The facts belie this belief. A very large number of teachers and prospective youngmen who would normally take up teachers' training course in this Province have joined the War Technician Centres in the several districts; many teachers have secured Instructors' jobs in the Indian Army and the Indian Naval Establishments already, and a good number have volunteered to join the different services in the Indian Air Force for which half a lakh of men are required before the end of the year 1943–44. A large number have further joined active ranks in subsidiary services in the army as instructors, clerks, and store-keepers, V.C.Os., radio and wireless specialists transport services and so on. Many teachers have personally come forward to join the Civil

THE ALL RED ROUTE, TO RUSSIA.—Over the burning deserts of Iraq and the snow-clad mountains of Iran, the supplies from America and Britain traverse the "All Red Route." Here we see a convoy, with Indian drivers of the R.I.A.S.C., waiting for the order to move off.

Defence and A.R.P. services in this Presidency. Teachers are working as Instructors in A.R.P. Training Establishments, as Staff Officers, in First Aid and Rescue departments and in the Nursing Services. It is significant to note here the testimony borne by Sir Meverel Statham, the present Director of Public Instruction, Madras, to the contribution made by the teaching profession to fighting services in this Province—

"My own department has usually been considered to be more mighty with the pen than with the sword; but as head of the department, I see no reason why I should not publicly announce my pride in the fact that out of approximately 3,800 subordinates (men and women), over 1,100 have as many as 2,300 close relations who have joined the fighting services or the subsidiary services. These figures include 1,000 in the Army, 120 in the Navy and 130 in the Air Force. No longer I think can it be said that the teaching profession as such is afraid of playing its part in the defence of the country."

PROPAGANDA

Teachers have eminently assisted the campaign for dissemination of correct news about the war and its progress all over the Presidency since the commencement of the war in September 1939 and particularly so, after the constitution in 1940 of District War Committees in every district. Teachers have assisted in the organization of meetings and by addressing them as speakers. They have closely associated themselves with Reading Circles and Reading Rooms in villages and towns respectively and exerted their influence in not only removing ignorance by wide diffusion of correct knowledge, but also by countering rumours and by an effective appeal to the people to support war effort by using all their available resources. The assembling and participation of children in connexion with special processions and mass singing of war songs has heightened the propaganda effect on the masses, and this great and responsible job has been carried out with the great readiness and enthusiasm by teachers. The sale of flags on Flag Day celebrations and presentation of hundis by school boys and scouts on festive occasions like Dipavali have had a tremendous moral effect on the people, and this has in no small measure assisted the material war effort. Several members of District War Committees who attended the Provincial War Committee's Propaganda Conference in November 1940, stated in the course of its proceedings from their experience that students and pupils in their districts were perfectly loyal and that there was no difficulty in carrying on propaganda among them and that teachers and professors were the most enthusiastic propagandists in favour of the war. Sir Meverel Statham who attended the Conference also drew special attention to the "splendid results achieved by way of contribution to War Funds made by students and teachers."

SALVAGE COLLECTION AND MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

The contribution made by the teacher and school children under his direction is equally significant in regard to salvage collection, and amenities and comforts for troops, etc. Individual teachers and teachers' associations have participated in these activities heartily. They have collected old books, journals and newspapers to be sent through the Red Cross to different theatres of war for use by the Fighting Forces. Work parties consisting of ladies including lady-teachers have, from time to time, provided hospital requisites, woollen caps, socks, banyans, napkins, etc., for the men. These have been collected and sent to different theatres of war along with other requisites including food parcels for prisoners of war by the Joint War Charities organization. Junior Red Cross Groups attached to schools have been mobilized to collect scrap-iron, broken horse-shoe and nails in roads and thoroughfares, and the proceeds of their sale have been added to the Governor's War Fund. Similarly school children have collected large quantities of waste paper and sent them in bags to headquarters under an organized scheme. These bags are either sold locally, the proceeds going to the Governor's War Fund or sent to Punalur Paper Mills for conversion into pulp to be used for war production purposes and in some cases for remaking paper out of it.

In conclusion, it may be observed that teachers of this province have eminently responded to the demands made on their services by a global war. They have readily and sincerely participated in all forms of war and civil defence activities, worked for increasing financial support and several other modes of assistance to the war effort. In consequence, this Province compares favourably with others in India, nay, in some respects has done better than several of them. They have further exhibited a remarkable capacity for adjustment to shifting conditions and demands of war time and have imbibed in themselves the great qualities of leadership, personality and self-confidence in their new activities. They are bound to react profitably to the new bonds of comradeship and unity that have been brought about when abnormally perilous conditions are prevalent as at the present moment. Judging from the splendid results of the part played in the past by the teacher in the war effort in Madras Province, it can be safely assumed that the present generation of teachers are bound to be the pioneers of a new education and a new outlook in post-war India. There is no doubt that they will contribute equally well to post-war reconstruction plans and towards establishing a new but lasting peace to be won at the end of the present war.

ANTI-INFLATION IN A NUTSHELL

(*By an N.W.F. Worker in a district.*)

THE outstanding cry of the day, whether it be of the merchant or the man in the street, is the huge rise in cost of not only producers' goods but also of consumers' goods. Prices are rising from day to day, nay from hour to hour, and it is important that all should understand the reasons.

One of the foremost of these, of course, is the huge expansion in currency notes. The amount of paper currency in circulation in India at the beginning of the war was about 173 crores. According to the Report of the Directors of the Reserve Bank of India for the year ending June 1943, the note issue has increased to Rupees 746·16 crores. In accordance with the Quantity Theory of Money, which states that other things remaining equal, prices will vary in direct proportion with the quantity of money in circulation, a fierce rise in cost becomes inevitable.

Why should the Government expand the currency, is the next question. It is obvious that during times of war, Government becomes the biggest buyer. War expenditure in the form of pay to the fighting services, labour, payments for arms and munitions steadily increases, and with it the spendable income in the hands of the public.

Cannot the Government raise the amount it needs by way of taxation, you may ask. The Government of India, like any other Government, have found in practice, that there are limits to taxation. Hence the inflationary tendency with all its attendant evils. Whatever may be the degree of it, the fact that there is a dangerous amount of inflation is agreed to by all economists. The evils of inflation are too many to be fully enumerated in short essay as this. In Germany, during the last war, inflation went to fantastic extremes and sufferings of the middle class gave birth to the Nazi movement. It used to be said (of course, with a little amount of exaggeration) that cartloads of 'Marks' had to be carried to pay for a cup of coffee. Left unchecked, inflation goes on silently, imperceptibly and irresistably until the final crash comes, when money has no longer any barter value. Sufferings of the people at such a period are bound to be shocking.

It is to avoid just such a contingency, viz., surplus notes, soaring prices, and terrible sufferings, that the Government are to-day planning to check and reduce inflation, and the reduction of price levels by that means formed one of the important subjects of discussion in the recent Delhi Food Conference. Let whatever action the Government may take, nothing substantial can be achieved without the active co-operation of the public. The intensity of the evil can be lessened, if the public begins investing in Defence Savings Certificates, Defence Bonds and in Defence Savings Banks, in other words removing money from circulation and putting it aside, at interest, until after the war. Inflation can be avoided, only if every rupee that the Government is spending is taken out of somebody's income. Government has taken a part of the available money by taxation; the rest can be made harmless if the public will save it and invest it in Defence Bonds, Defence Savings Certificates, Defence Savings Stamps, etc.

Incidentally the policy of saving will go a long way towards solving one of the vital problems of the day, viz., food. With the possibility of prices rising from day to day, it is but natural for the agriculturist to hold on to his stock of food in the eager anticipation of higher and higher prices. But once the public begins saving, the price-level is bound to fall, and with it also the amount of hoarded food grains.

Moreover, saving is beneficial purely from the selfish point of view. It is merely making provision against the rainy day. To avoid suffering during days of economic slump in the post-war years, saving at this juncture, when almost everybody is earning, is absolutely essential.

THIS FORTRESS OF HITLER'S

BY LEONARD INGRAMS.

TWO HUNDRED kilometres longer in circumference than the Great Wall of China and of greater depth'; 'The greatest building project since the Pyramids,'—that is how the German Press has lately written up the coastal defences of Europe. With these comparisons the Germans evidently mean to show that the Third Reich disposes of more slaves than any of the ancient dynasties. 'Built almost entirely with foreign labour,' they say—and seem pleased with the thought that they have forced the free citizens of France and Belgium and the rest to build their prison walls along the coast where they used to go for their summer holidays.

"The Dutch seaboard looks quite different," said the German News Agency the other day. "Hotels are closed and bathing huts have disappeared to make room for gun emplacements; there is not a yard unfortified along this coast. After the anti-tank wall are barbed-wire entanglements. Behind them, a tank ditch twenty metres wide and several metres deep, and filled with water. Behind this, several lines of tank traps, and in between are concrete pill-boxes with armoured turrets studded with guns of every calibre, A.A. guns, battery emplacements, machine-guns nests, and so on."

Well, in that case, it is a black outlook for the Allied forces who are hoping to find and fight the German Army somewhere on the Continent. But if the German forces in the West are going to be so spread out as to man the length and breadth of these magnificient defence works and keep them manned at all points, it won't be war but hide and seek among the battlements, with here and there a German soldier cunningly concealed in concrete.

But, of course, even the Germans wouldn't expect that talk of this kind is going to have the slightest influence on Allied strategy. The Allied Chiefs of Staff would hardly rely on German wireless talks in making plans for when and where and how to strike at them. These photographs and this big talk are meant to reassure the German people themselves; their fear of retribution has been growing daily with the mounting total of their barbaric crimes and the hatred they have bread everywhere and with the growing might of the world in arms against them.

GERMAN FETISH

These tales of impregnable defence works round about them will certainly relieve their minds. The fetish of the German people is a fortress: *'Ein' feste Burg ist unser Gott'* ('Our God is a fortress').

There is a passage in the journal kept by Dorothy Wordsworth, the poet's sister, on her visit to Hamburg at the end of the eighteenth century: 'Accustomed to English liberty,' it runs, 'I was irked by life in a walled town. While the sun was yet shinning pleasantly, we were obliged to think perpetually to turn our eyes to the church clock. Gates are shut at half past six o'clock, and there is no admittance into the city after that time. This idea deducts much pleasure from an evening walk. You are haunted by it long before the time has elapsed.' But the Germans themselves would not have felt the same about it as Miss Wordsworth did. They would have felt safer and more comfortable with the gates shut.

In times of peace, even, they see themselves surrounded by enemies. German psychologists call it their *belagerungskomplex*—their siege mentality. And Hitler made full use of this bogy of encirclement, or *einkriesung*, the surface. Well now that bogy's come alive—east and to unite the Germans and to bring the savage in them to west and north and south the Germans are indeed surrounded by their enemies, and it will take more than fortifications to keep them safe unless and until they are ready to surrender unconditionally. But in those fortifications they will put their faith, and for the moment they will sleep the better for it, hoping their enemies will go away discouraged one day and leave them in possession of their winnings, and hoping that the other States of Europe will learn to like a fortress, too.

Their European Fortress, as they call it, is fashioned throughout in the best tradition of the Middle Ages. Outside this wall that is going up there is, of course, a moat—the sea itself. Within the wall there are outer enclosures, such as Western France, divided by another fortified line from inner enclosures, and at the heart of it the keep itself, complete with dungeons, torture chambers, and the rest. On the southern side, the underside, the picture isn't quite so perfect. From the Brenner gateway in the Alps, the Kingdom of Italy, like a rickety and insufficient drawbridge, reaches part of the way across to Africa; but the use of it is more like walking the plank than crossing a bridge. And, incidentally, this idea that the Brenner gate is going to close behind him must equally deduct much pleasure from the evening walks of Mussolini. 'You are haunted by it long before the time has elapsed,' said Miss Dorothy Wordsworth.

MODELLED ON THE MIDDLE AGES

The conception of the fortress does not end with its physical constructions: the laws inside it are made to match the layout; the social system in force there is modelled on the Middle Ages, too. The barons in Berlin rob and requisition as they please; communities who need bread get concrete fortifications; men and women are moved in droves, as serfs, from place to place; food supplies are centrally collected and doled out to people according to their occupation and the contribution they can make to German fighting strength. First in the list are the men-at-arms—the soldiers—and then the men at the forges and the men who mine the coal to keep the forges going, and so on. Goering, in a recent speech, gave as the favoured food groups first the German worker, and then the foreign worker working in the Reich, and thirdly the foreign worker working for Germany at home. The whole economy of German Europe is planned for the benefit of Germany. Wheatlands and pasture must be sown with rape-seed to maintain the German fat ration; factories must make what Germany wants; railways are reserved for German purposes—the rest can walk. The financial clearing system, centred in Berlin, that serves this so-called European order is devised as the machinery of exploitation pure and simple, with no provision for interchange or fair exchange of goods, or of distribution of anything in the interest of any but the *Herrenvolk* themselves.

Against this sordid background, Germany now hails the Great Atlantic Wall as what they call 'the first joint achievement of the European continent on a large scale,' and undertakes to guarantee within it the free election of Governments, life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness for all.

NEW EUROPEAN ORDER IN LIQUIDATION

New European Order, Ltd., in liquidation, bust wide open, with capital gone and assets wasted, is to be refloated as the Statute of Europe, Incorporated, under the same old management with those same discredited signatures, but greatly improved by a wall two hundred kilometres longer than the Great Wall of China. For the purposes of the Company prospectus, the promoters have had a sample section of the wall created on the Dutch coast and photographed and publicised. Investors who had no dividends at all out of New European Order, Ltd., will be wondering whether these promoters with their Statute of Europe can offer the sort of security they're looking for.

Apart from the gaps in the walls and the obvious short-comings of the Eastern and the Southern sides, the classical type of fortress seems rather out of date with Flying Fortresses about—and Halifaxes, Lancasters, and Stirlings. These battlements won't even keep the Mosquitoes out. The European Fortress needs a roof.

Before they back this venture, investors will consider, too, the fortresses and sieges of the past—'It's men, not walls, that make a state,' said Sophocles. In the outer enclosures of the European fortress the men are rebellious, and in the citadel itself an outside Trojan Horse, containing quite six million foreign workers, is waiting with impatience for the day to break. Subscribers to the Statute of Europe, Incorporated, will be few: no one, in fact, outside the management will back it. But what it means is at least this—the arrogance of the Hun when he's on top has been beaten out of him; the Germans, for the moment anyhow, no longer see themselves as *Herrenvolk*—the master race—with the world as *lebensraum* for them to dominate. They're only asking now to keep what they've plundered and within that area they talk of brotherhood and co-prosperity. That might be a step forward if their actions din't so belie their words. —*Broadcast in the B.B.C's. North American Service.*

SUBEDAR VOLUNTEERS

IN the Burmese frontier recently news came through that a large party of Japanese had moved into a Burmese town, and volunteers were called to check the information.

The man who stepped forward first was a Subedar of the Chin Levies who had just escaped after being taken prisoner by the enemy. To be caught again meant certain death but he pleaded with his Officer Commanding to be allowed to lead the patrol as he knew the surrounding country so well.

Eventually the Officer Commanding agreed, and the Subedar disappeared with a small party. A few days later he returned with all the required information.

FROM AIR WEAKNESS TO AIR STRENGTH

BY OLIVER STEWART

AIR superiority in almost every theatre has passed to the Allies. That to my mind is really the great positive change in the world-war situation. In Western Europe, in the Mediterranean, and in the Pacific, the air balance has tipped in our favour. We have not got absolute air supremacy anywhere yet, and where our enemies have concentrated their forces, as on the Pacific and Russian fronts, even a small superiority is hard to hold.

But if one could add up the Allied superiority to a single sum it would be already far in advance of the Axis figure. And I want to make a point about this favourable balance which has so far been rather neglected. It concerns the manner in which superiority in the air has been won. Most people divide up the credit between the courage and skill of the fighting men, the excellence of the technical work, and the great productive resources of the United Nations. But I think that a precis of the main operations shows that a very great part of the credit ought to go to the air commanders.

There can no longer be any reason for concealing the fact that at any time during the first three years of war serious tactical errors by our air commanders might have led to the complete obliteration of Allied air power. It was not always possible at the time to say how much depended on their decisions because to do so would have revealed our appalling weakness in numbers of airplanes.

The air commanders had to husband their forces and to try to put up a good fight with ludicrously inadequate strength. It would not at the time have been advisable, for instance, to tell the enemy that in June 1940, when Italy entered the war, there were no fighters ready for service in Malta. It would not have been advisable to mention in the summer of 1940 that the Royal Air Force in Egypt and Palestine did not have a single monoplane fighter available—its fighter force consisted of much less than a hundred Gladiator biplanes. It would not even have been advisable to refer to the last-minute attempt to reinforce, which led to a total accession to the strength of our forces there of three Blenheims and six Hurricanes.

In the Far East the position was relatively no better. The Japanese had built up a powerful naval air service and we had a few flights scattered about on shore and even fewer in ships.

The German Air Force had been announced to the world in April 1935; but it had been building up from a much earlier date. Compared with the total fighter forces based even on Britain herself it was of enormous size.

FEATS OF OUR AIR COMMANDERS

It is only by keeping these comparisons between the enemy's huge air strength of the early war days and our own weakness that one can justly appreciate the feats of our air commanders. They had to hold out while the resources of the United Nations were being mobilised. We used to talk of the value of attack and how we ought to think offensively and not defensively—all of which was very sound talk until one came to study the figures of air strength. Then the idea of attacking on any scale in those early days could be seen to be completely impracticable.

Holding out—that was the only thing our commanders could hope to do. And that was difficult enough. It was always obvious that if we could hold out we could outproduce the Axis and beat them out of the air by force of numbers if by no other means.

In Tunisia, as I write, Allied air strength is numerically much greater than Axis air strength. In the Pacific, Allied air strength has grown so much that it has often proved possible to bring strong forces to bear against special Japanese efforts.

Production is now at last having its say. Superior productive and raw-material resources of the United Nations are bringing about the inevitable result. Nothing, now, short of major blunders in strategy or tactics, can prevent the Allies from enjoying growing air superiority everywhere.

But not long ago, small blunders by our air commanders might have put that air superiority for ever out of reach. Then they were playing an extraordinarily dangerous game. If once an air force is overwhelmed in the field it can be annihilated much more rapidly and completely than any land force. If once the enemy is allowed to get more than a certain amount of air superiority he can practically clear the skies. When the Eighth Army was making its advance across Libya, the Western Desert Air Forces temporarily knocked out enemy air resistance, and immediately after abandoned aircraft and air stores were being collected in their hundreds.

An air force in rapid retreat is, in fact, about the most vulnerable formation in the entire military machine. If Rommel, during his advance on Egypt, had done what the Western Desert Air Force did, if he had succeeded in knocking out Allied air power, he might have had the success he expected.

But in the different war theatres I've mentioned, Allied air commanders managed in the face of fearful difficulties to keep their forces together and to keep them working. They held the fort while the factories got busy. They interposed their fragile formations between the heart of the Allied productive effort and the gigantic forces that were trying to reach it.

That is why, when I am asked to give the chief reason why the Allies have succeeded in gaining air superiority in all theatres, I answer that it is because of the skill and understanding of the Allied air commanders. All our huge resources, all our technical skill, all our manpower and machine-power would have availed us nothing if a few men with a few machines had not taken the right decisions and done the right things at the right times.

That is not to belittle the productive effort. At the time of the Battle of Britain our factories did amazing things to speed up the supply of fighters. So did the newly-formed Ministry of Aircraft Production under Lord Beaverbrook. The method of cannibalising fighters—and allowing a partly wrecked machine to eat up another, making one good new 'plane to throw into the battle—helped tremendously to eke out our small forces.

United States production methods, which exceed in scope and magnitude any others, are coming forward. But it is worth recalling that during the critical days of 1940 Britain was producing nearly three times as many aricraft as the United States and that it was not until last year that United States production exceeded our own.

During that period, in 1940 and 1941, the prime responsibility rested on the air commanders. With inadequate forces they had to keep things going. And for them there was no room for a mistake.

As I have said, there were reasons at the time for not giving credit to these men. There were even reasons why it was advisable not to defend them against the public criticism that they were too defensive-minded. But now the picture is clearing. And the first thing it reveals is that we ought to be grateful to those who ingeniously juggled with their slender forces and gave the huge production machine time to wind itself up.

Now air superiority has been secured. The enemy air forces will still strike hard. But, relatively, they have begun their decline. For that great improvement in the war situation thanks must be offered to the early air commanders.

—Broadcast in the BBC's Short-wave Services.

THEY FOUGHT against TIPPU

A NEW CHAPTER was written in the colourful history of an Indian regiment which goes back 166 years when at a ceremonial parade recently the Colours of the 79th Carnatic Infantry, were taken over by a battalion of the 3rd Madras Regiment, blessed by the Battalion Pandit and carried through the ranks for every man to see.

Raised at Trichinopoly in 1777 under the title of the 20th Carnatic Infantry, the Battalion has had several changes of name since then, the last being in September 1942 when it became a part of the Madras Regiment.

Proudly emblazoned on its colours are six battle honours. The first was won in 1781 at Sholinghpur when the battalion contributed to the defeat of Haider Ali. At Seringapatam in 1797 the Battalion won new honour against Tippu's army.

In 1854 fighting at Pegu in the 2nd Burmese War, men of the Battalion held out against heavy odds. They fought also in the Carnatic campaign, in the Mysore war, and the Central India war, gaining new glory in every battle field.

WAR DIARY

BRITAIN AND GERMANY

24TH JULY.—Large formations of United States heavy bombers attacked targets in Norway in daylight. Railway communications in France and Belgium were also attacked and 10 locomotives damaged. The Royal Air Force dropped bombs on two power-stations in Belgium.

According to the Italian News Agency, it was officially announced in Paris that Frenchmen born in 1922 would leave for work in Germany.

25TH JULY.—Aircraft of the Bomber Command dropped well over 2,000 tons of bombs in a concentrated attack on Hamburg. Other aircraft attacked objectives in western and north-western Germany. American heavy bombers attacked Kiel and Flying Fortresses, the aluminium plant at Heroya and the submarine repair and maintenance works at Trondheim in Norway.

Light coastal forces of the Royal Navy fought a sharp, successful action with enemy boats off the French coast.

26TH JULY.—Aircraft of the Bomber Command made a very heavy attack on Essen. Objectives in Hamburg and Cologne were also attacked.

It was reported that Field-Marshal Kesselring and the German Ambassador Mackensen were negotiating with Marshal Badoglio in Rome.

27TH JULY.—Mr. Churchill, Premier, adressing the House of Commons, defined the alternatives facing Italy—to yield to the Allies and secure a respectable peace or be scarred and blackened from one end to the other.

Reuter's special correspondent wrote: Berlin to-day bears all the outward marks of a crisis. The news of Sgr. Mussolini's fall was unexpected to Hitler, who flew back to Berlin from the eastern front.

28TH JULY.—Hamburg was again raided (the sixth attack in three days).

* * * *

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND ATLANTIC

24TH JULY.—President Roosevelt said that the purpose of the Rome raid was to save the lives of Allied troops in Sicily. It was not a matter of retaliation but military necessity.

Lord Halifax, British Ambassador, said: "Lease-Lend is no longer a one-way proposition. England and the British Commonwealth are now giving the United States as much as they are receiving."

26TH JULY.—Mr. Cordell Hull, Secretary of State, declared at a press conference that the very appropriate and timely ending to Mussolini's rule was the first major step in the early and complete destruction and eradication of every vestige of Fascism in Italy.

27TH JULY.—According to Government spokesmen, Mussolini's resignation would cause the complete crack-up of the Axis satellite countries, such as Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria.

* * * *

INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

21ST JULY.—Heavy bombers of the 10th United States Air Force dropped 12 tons of high explosive bombs on the Namtu mines near Lashio in Burma. A large formation of medium bombers attacked a concentration of river boats operated by the enemy near Katha. There was also active raid against enemy supply and troop bases in Northern Burma. The Royal Air Force attacked Japanese transportation and troop positions in Central Burma. In Arakan, Blenheims and Hurricanes dropped bombs on Japanese occupied villages and troop positions.

24TH JULY.—The Royal Air Force fighters attacked and damaged over one-hundred enemy river craft ranging from a steamer to supply sampans. Factory buildings were damaged. Near Gargan motor vehicles and army huts were shot up. Japanse monsoon quarters at Buthedaung and enemy positions at Theizang near Kalemyo were attacked.

* * * * *

ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

21ST JULY.—Allied warships sailed within 80 miles of Italy's great naval base of TARANTO to bombard the harbour of CROTONE in the toe of Italy. This is the first time that the Italian mainland has been shelled since Genoa's bombardment.

22ND JULY.—American troops were reported to be 15 mils south fo PALERMO. Americans swept north and westwards, and the Allies were at some points only 50 miles from the northern shores of Sicily. With the capture of CASTELVENTRANO town, the Americans were only 20 miles east of MARSALA and the extreme west coast of Sicily. The Americans advanced more than 12 miles a day after the capture of AGRIGENTO last Sunday (18th July). Over 40,000 prisoners had been captured up to date by the Allies. On the night of July 19 our bombers attacked CROTONE airfield and railway communications at NAPLES. RAMACCA in the eastern sector of the front was captured by the Eighth Army. South of CATANA fierce fighting was in progress. Canadian troops continued their advance in the face of determined resistance. The Germans had been reinforced in the vital Catania sector. The Royal Navy shelled Crotone on the Italian mainland in the Gulf of Taranto. The American Seventh Army reached the outskirts of MARSALA, the fall of which was imminent. The Eighth Army had encountered stiff opposition in the north-east corner of Cicily. Sicily was, in general, been isolated. The Allies had complete air control with better than ten to one superiority. Rome radio announced an evacuation scheme for Rome.

According to Reuter's Special Correspondent, Rommel is now in Greece. Strong reinforcements of Axis troops have also been rushed to Macedonia, Thrace and Greece, following the invasion of Sicily.

23RD JULY.—PALERMO, the Capital of Sicily fell. The advance elements of the American army captured the place. The Italians had no time to carry out demolition of the harbour. Except in the Catania sector, enemy resistance died down over the rest of the island. Thirty to forty-five thousand Italians were trapped in Western Sicily by the capture of Palermo. British troops broke through the main German lines, west of the Catania plain. TRAPANI and MARSALA were evacuated. The 26th Italian division had surrendered.

24TH JULY.—It was revealed that 50 Guerilla groups were operating in Albania and that Mussolini was fast losing his hold on the last remaining bit of Italy's empire. [Albania was invaded on Good Friday, April 1939.]

American troops occupied the important port of Marsala and continued to mop up enemy resistance. The Seventh Army took a large number of prisoners and huge quantities of enemy equipment.

According to an American broadcaster from Algiers, 60,000 prisoners had so far been taken in Sicily.

Mussolini's Black Shirt Legion to whom the defence of Palermo was entrusted, surrendered without a fight.

General Giraud arrived in North Africa from his visit to England.

American bombers attacked Crete. The Royal Air Force fighters destroyed a German plane off the coast of Cyrenaica.

25TH JULY.—*Sgr. Mussolini resigned. King Victor accepted his resignation. Marshal Badoglio was appointed Premier.*

The Vatican radio broadcast an emphatic denial that the Pope had sent a personal protest to President Roosevelt following the American air attack on Rome.

British warships bombarded the harbour of Taormina on the east coast of Sicily. Fierce fighting continued in the north-east corner of Sicily.

American troops, it was reported, occupied the port of Trapani on July 23. The port of Termine, east of Palermo, and Vetrano were also captured.

Mr. Robert Patterson, United States Acting Secretary for War, announced that 5,000 airborne Allied troops had been used in the invasion of Sicily. He added: "The Sicilian campaign is now rapidly nearing its conclusion. It is now only a matter of days."

26TH JULY.—*According to a Stockholm report, Sgr. Mussolini was arrested while trying to make good his escape to Germany.*

Italy was placed under martial law. Demonstrations broke out in many parts of Italy, people celebrating the end of Fascism in the streets. The Italian army took over all public order throughout Italy.

The Americans captured the important town of Termini. Allied troops occupied Cefalu. The port of Mlazzo was attacked by Allied aircraft.

It was reported that the Pope was using all his influence to persuade the new Italian Government to negotiate separate peace with the Allies.

27TH JULY.—Gestapo officials left Italy. It was reported that Marshal Badoglio had ordered home from Greece, Yugoslavia and France, the Italian divisions stationed there. The declaration of Rome as an open city was calculated to lead to the ultimate surrender of Italy.

All Fascist insignia throughout Italy was removed.

Student demonstrators demanded immediate peace negotiations.

Malta had a sharp air raid. Three Axis aircraft were destroyed.

A Greek spokesman said that Mussolini was not subject to International Law which he had broken, that he must be treated as an ordinary criminal and turned over to those countries where his soldiers had committed atrocities.

According to the British Admiralty Communique, British submarines had sunk 46 Axis ships of all types in northern Mediterranean.

After fierce fighting, the Canadians in Sicily made further progress. During offensive sweeps over Messina area, 29 enemy planes were shot down. Railway communications and Marina Di Paola in southern Italy were attacked.

28TH JULY.—According to the Berne correspondent of *Svenska Dagbladet*, a stream of German troops passed the Brenner into Italy. "Everything indicates that Hitler has decided not to give up Italy without a fight." It was also reported that German troops were massed along the Hungarian frontier.

The newly appointed Italian Cabinet decided to dissolve the Fascist party.

The Morocco radio quoting Madrid reports said that the Pope acting as intermediary for the Italian Government had asked for Allied armistice terms.

The Eighth Army was held up at Catania. The battle entered the most difficult stage.

* * * * *

RUSSIA AND FINLAND

22ND JULY.—The Russians entered inside the defence line in Orel and captured Bolkhov. In the Orel front, Russions driving from the east and north-east were almost within striking distance of the city which was under constant air attack and the main German defences between Orel and Bolkhov were pierced. Two Soviet armies converging on Orel from the north and north-east linked up across the Moscow-Orel railway after piercing the German line. The line from Mitsensk to Orel had been partly rested from the Germans. South of Orel in the Belgorod sector the Germans had been thrown out of the main defence positions they had occupied during their recent ouensive. During the ten days of the Russian offensive they had captured 6,000 officers and men as prisoners, and a large quantity of war material.

23RD JULY.—The Red Army advanced three more miles in its drive towards Orel and the Germans fell back on the inner defences. A powerful Russian onslaught was reported on the Leningrad front. The Germans were in full retreat along the road which followed the direction of the Kursk-Byelgorod railway line and Soviet tank columns swept after them. With the capture of the key towns of BOLKHOV and MTSENSK the position of Orel was almost hopeless. Russian bombers raided BRYANSK. Six hundred divisions were now interlocked in a death struggle on the Eastern front.

24TH JULY.—The Russians captured two inhabited localities on the Byelgorod front at the southern end of the Kursk bulge.

In an order of the day by Marshal Stalin it was stated that the Russians had completed the liquidation of the German July offensive.

It was revealed that in battles between July 5 and July 23, the Germans sustained the following losses: Over 70,000 officers and men in killed and 2,900 tanks, 195 self-propelled guns, 844 field guns, 1,392 planes and over 5,000 lorries disabled or destroyed.

25TH JULY.—The Paris radio reported that the Red Army had made a break-through north of Orel.

The Russians broke through the Finnish lines in the Arctic.

Russian troops succeeded in breaching the German lines east of the Neva.

According to a forecast, Soviet plans for post-war Europe envisaged the establishment of friendly, co-operative and democratic—but not necessarily Communistic—States at least as far west as the Rhine.

27TH JULY.—The German General Walther von Huenerselorf died of wounds received while leading his tanks during the Byelgorod offensive.

Three Red Armies made new advances in their concentric march on the German-occupied Orel.

28TH JULY.—The Germans retreated south of Orel.

* * * * *

NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

24TH JULY.—A Turkish sailing ship was shelled and sunk by an unknown submarine in Turkish territorial waters in the Black Sea near Karaburin.

28TH JULY.—It was reported that Mussolini had arrived in Spain by plane.

* * * * *

FREE FRENCH

22ND JULY.—"I have no political ambition. No one to-day outside France has a right to speak for France. We, Frenchmen outside France, have a right to get killed for France; we have no other right," said General Giraud at a press conference in London.

23RD JULY.—General Giraud arrived back in North Africa after his visit to United States and Britain.

* * * * *

THE FAR EAST

21ST JULY.—According to a Japanese News Agency, King George the Fifth Dock, the largest floating dock in the world, which was sunk by the British on Singapore island, had been refloated.

22ND JULY.—In the South-West Pacific, Japanese ground forces launched a strong counter-attack at Munda in New Georgia, but were repulsed with heavy losses. The United States ground troops were within a few thousand yards of Munda air field.

23RD JULY.—In the South-West Pacific Allied heavy bombers of the Liberator class carried out successful surprise raid on the Japanese main base in the Netherlands Indies, 1,000 miles from Australia. In carrying out this operation against SOURABAYA in Java our air craft flew 2,400 miles, a record comparable with the longest distance covered by land-based bombers in any theatre of war.

24TH JULY.—General Tojo, the Japanese Prime Minister, held a special War Council of elder Japanese statesmen and leaders of the present government.

It was reported by the German radio that the American air force in China had now planes which could make the trip to Tokyo and back to their base at Kweiling without re-fuelling.

The Americans, who landed in Nassau Bay in New Guinea, advanced to the shore of Tambu Bay. A 9,000 ton Japanese sea plane was sunk.

Rear-Admiral Koenraed, Commander of the Netherlands East Indies Forces in Australia, said that the Sourabaya raid was the beginning of the beginning.

25TH JULY.—Allied planes dropped 80 tons of bombs on Japanese positions in New Georgia Island and 60 tons on Lae in New Guinea.

Japanese bombers made a futile attempt to raid American advance bases in Hunan.

Heavy casulties were inflicted on the Japanese and three barracks and many fortifications were demolished in a Chinese Commando raid on Changanchen, north-west of Haining.

26TH JULY.—Allied bombers delivered the heaviest attack on Munda.

American bombers raided Wake Island.

27TH JULY.—Mr. Mamoru Shiegemitsu, Japan's Foreign Minister, after reporting Mussolini's resignation to the Japanese Cabinet, stressed that Japan's policy in the war would remain completely unchanged.

American aircraft bombed Hankow.

Dr. Wellington Koo, Chinese Ambassador to Britain, speaking at Aberdeen said: "Not only is the defeat of Japan necessary to the organisation of a new world, but that defeat must also be speedily brought about."

28TH JULY.—The fall of Munda was immident. Allied bombers raided Hongkong.

PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS AND PUBLISHED BY THE DIRECTOR OF WAR PUBLICITY, "VICTORY HOUSE", MOUNT ROAD, MADRAS.